

while impaired in a commercial vehicle,” and “failure to comply with control conditions by persons with communicable diseases”) committed on or after October 1, 1994. A companion piece to Structured Sentencing was the State-County Criminal Justice Partnership Act, which provides the community correction strategy necessary for the implementation of the new sentencing laws.

In 1995, the General Assembly modified some of the sentencing laws. It increased the minimum sentence lengths for some violent offenses (Class B2, C, and D felonies) and it authorized an active sentence for some low level property offenses (Class H, Prior Record Levels I and II). The General Assembly also added a new misdemeanor offense class (Class A1) in order to increase the punishments for certain assaultive misdemeanors. These changes took effect December 1, 1995, and applied to offenses committed on or after that date.

In 2009, the General Assembly again modified some of the sentencing laws. It changed the minimum sentence lengths for Class B1 through G felonies so that the increase between prior record levels was consistent and it changed the prior record level point ranges to shift certain offenders to a higher or lower prior record level. These changes took effect December 1, 2009, and applied to offenses committed on or after that date.

Structured Sentencing laws are based on articulated principles and they provide a structured approach to sentencing changes and adjustments as well as a rational way to prioritize and manage correctional resources. This Manual presents a detailed explanation of Structured Sentencing and its stepwise application in arriving at felony and misdemeanor sentences.